

# HŌ'IKE KŪ MAKAHIKI O KE KULA 'O KAMEHAMEHA



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2025



Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha



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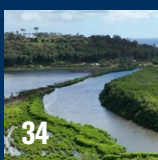
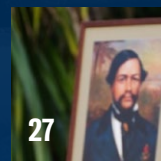
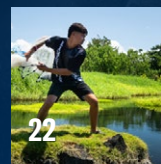
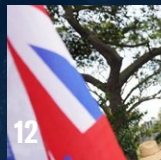
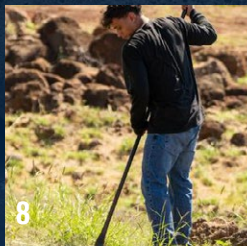
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2025 in Review



Kamehameha Schools is a private, educational, charitable trust endowed by the will of Hawaiian Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop (1831-1884), the great-granddaughter and last direct descendant of King Kamehameha I.

During her lifetime, Princess Pauahi witnessed the rapid decline of the Native Hawaiian population. She knew that education would be key to the survival of her people, and in an enduring act of aloha, she bequeathed to them a precious gift — 375,000 acres of ancestral lands of the royal Kamehameha family and instructions to her trustees that the “rest, residue and remainder of my estate” be used to establish the Kamehameha Schools.

Today, Ke Ali‘i Pauahi’s legacy continues to advance her desire to restore her people through education.



# E OLA KE EA

## Empowering a thriving and self- determined lāhui

Rooted in the promise of E Ola!, Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha continues to carry forward the sacred vision and kauoha of Ke Ali'i Bernice Pauahi Bishop. Her legacy lives through the lessons we teach, the 'āina we steward, and the relationships we nurture across our pae 'āina.

We see our princess's dream come to life every day in haumāna who grow their knowledge and their na'au, in communities strengthened by shared purpose, and in 'Ōiwi leaders who uplift the lāhui with courage and conviction. Guided by the wisdom of our kūpuna and steadfast in our kuleana to generations yet to come, we move forward with gratitude for all who stand with us. Together, we continue to build upon our princess's chiefly charge to empower our lāhui and enrich the life of our kaiāulu for generations to come.



# Aloha from the Board of Trustees and CEO of Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha



FY2024-2025 Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha Trustees (from left): Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Noelani Goodyear-Ka'ōpua KSK'92, Chair Elliot Kawaiho'olana Mills, Vice Chair Crystal Kaulani Rose KSK'75, Robert K.W.H. Nobriga KSK'91, Michelle Ka'uhane KSK'86



Chief Executive Officer  
Livingston "Jack" Wong

“Every action we take, every relationship we nurture, and every learner we equip for success brings us closer to fulfilling Ke Ali'i Pauahi's vision of a thriving Hawai'i for generations to come.”

## Leadership Letter

Aloha kākou,

The 2024–25 fiscal year was a time of transition for Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha. It marked the culmination of Strategic Map 2025—a five-year coordinated effort that prioritized safety, high-quality education, deepened community collaboration, 'āina stewardship, and community resilience. The successful completion of SM2025 and our renewed dedication to E Ola! reaffirm our mission to empower Native Hawaiians and improve the well-being of our people through education.

With E Ola! as our identity, Strategic Plan 2030 charts our course toward ea—the breath, agency, and self-determining power of our lāhui. Every action we take, every relationship we nurture, and every learner we equip for success brings us closer to fulfilling Ke Ali'i Pauahi's vision of a thriving Hawai'i for generations to come.

Across our campuses and preschools, E Ola! comes alive in the laughter of our keiki, the dedication of our kumu, and the shared pursuit of excellence, guided by ea Hawai'i. We remain dedicated to creating safe, nurturing environments where haumāna grow in knowledge, confidence, and purpose. Whether in the classroom, on 'āina, or through digital learning spaces, our students are discovering what it means to lead with both intellect and heart. Grounded in the ancestral wisdom of our kūpuna and faith in Ke Akua, they know who they are and are ready to serve our lāhui and the places we hold dear.

Our 'āina is more than land—it is the foundation of our people and our many kaiāulu. Caring for Pauahi's lands is our kuleana, an ancestral privilege and a sacred duty. Guided by 'ike kupuna, we are restoring ecosystems, cultivating sustainable food systems, and creating

spaces where communities can thrive. Through thoughtful planning, regenerative practices, and strategic investments that yield financial returns, we are cultivating ea. Ma uka to ma kai, our stewardship of 'āina builds resilience, fosters belonging, and reaffirms the enduring bond among people and place.

In addition to providing education on our campuses and 'āina, we support communities toward a thriving and self-determined lāhui through scholarships, community partnerships, and local investments. Thousands of learners and families continue to experience culturally rich educational opportunities through these collective efforts. Whether advancing 'āina-based education, strengthening Hawaiian language and culture, or providing scholarships to learners seeking to further their education, we see sustained progress and impact as we work—together with community—toward shared purpose.

Today, as we face legal challenges to our admissions policy, we are reminded of the importance of ea—the self-determining agency bestowed by Ke Akua, perpetuated by our ali'i, and protected by generations of our kūpuna. In defending Ke Ali'i Pauahi's kauoha, we are upholding her vision and our collective right to chart our own course as a lāhui. This work is sacred. Together, we breathe life into her charge and carry forward a legacy that continues to uplift all of Hawai'i.

May we move forward with humility, hope, and kapu aloha—so that ea lives on in our people, our 'āina, and our future.

E ola ke ea.



# Nā Mo'olelo o 2025

By providing a world-class education experience for learners, strengthening the connection between 'āina and kānaka, and nurturing meaningful relationships within the community, we see the legacy of Ke Ali'i Pauahi come to life across ko Hawai'i pae 'āina.

These are our people. These are our voices. These are our mo'olelo.

## ▶ EDUCATION



Nurturing 'Ōiwi Leadership  
Through E Ola!

PG.7

## ▶ 'ĀINA STEWARDSHIP



Stewarding the Land for  
Resilient Futures

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## ▶ COMMUNITY



Empowering 'Ōiwi Leaders  
to Revitalize and Restore

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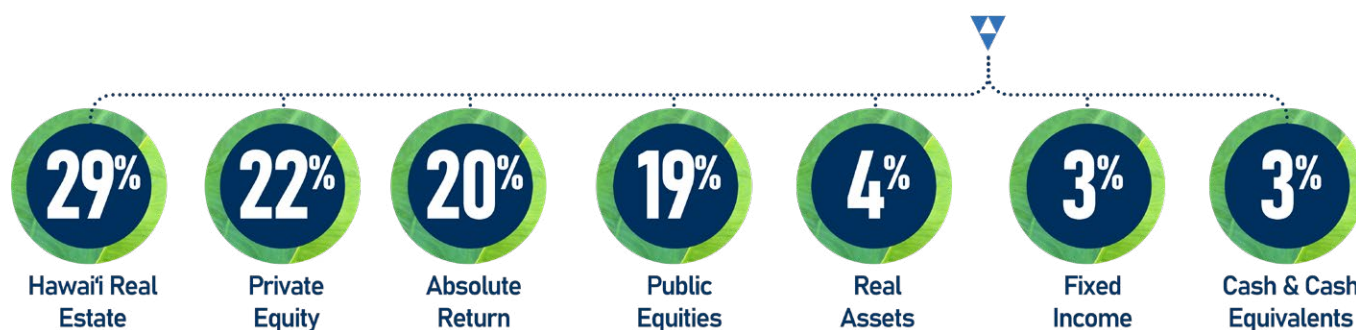
## ► Resources + Impacts

# ENDOWMENT

## Sustaining legacy and empowering futures

Kamehameha Schools' endowment provides 97% of the funding that sustains its mission. Guided by a long-term investment strategy, the endowment ensures financial growth and stability, enabling KS to nurture 'ōiwi leaders and create lasting impact for generations to come.

| INVESTMENT RETURNS | 10 Years<br>Annualized | 5 Years<br>Annualized | 1 Year |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| Endowment Fund     | 7.6%                   | 9.8%                  | 8.8%   |
| Policy Benchmark   | 6.2%                   | 7.7%                  | 8.4%   |





## ► EDUCATION

# Nurturing ‘Ōiwi Leadership Through E Ola!

Grounded in the guiding principles of *E Ola!*—a framework rooted in Hawaiian culture—KS campuses and preschools are cultivating a new generation of ‘ōiwi leaders. By integrating ‘āina-based stewardship and fostering strong connections to culture and land, KS is preparing students to become thoughtful stewards of the environment and champions of Hawaiian values in an ever-changing world.



## KS Maui haumāna enhance learning while supporting restoration at Ka Malu site in Lahaina

PG.8



## Kamehameha haumāna march with purpose, honor Queen Lili‘uokalani

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## Aloha meets aroha: Waimānalo preschoolers engage in cultural exchange with Māori kumu

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## Hō‘ike 2025 - ‘Emalani is now available for viewing

PG.17





## KS Maui haumāna enhance learning while supporting restoration at Ka Malu site in Lahaina

For haumāna at Ke Kula ‘o Kamehameha, ‘āina is both classroom and kumu, offering learning experiences that build mind, body and na‘au. One such learning space that’s evolving is Ka Malu, located on ‘Āina Pauahi in Lahaina, Maui.

In February 2025, haumāna from Ke Kula ‘o Kamehameha Maui took part in a huaka‘i to Ka Malu in Ku‘ia to learn and support restoration efforts. Junior Kahoa Kapua‘ala found great meaning in the relatively simple work of scooping dirt away by hand to make way for a young ‘a‘ali‘i to be planted there.

“Being able to contribute and feel more connected to the land is something that I’m very proud of,” Kapua‘ala said. “After we leave today, I’m going to feel accomplished knowing that I helped not only restore the land but also contributed to the revitalization of our culture and planted native species – some that are very sacred and scarce.”

“It’s just been a really fun experience.”

Kapua‘ala was one of about 15 haumāna and three kumu who made the first school trip out to Ku‘ia to kāko‘o the ongoing reforestation and conservation work being done by KS’ ‘Āina Pauahi team working alongside kaiāulu. Haumāna from grades 9-12 planted about 100 wiliwili and a‘ali‘i plants on a site named Ka Malu, whose meanings include: the shade, the shelter or the protection.

“We fully understand that we have a kuleana, and our kuleana is to take care of everybody, take care of everything,” Gapero said. “If we think about ‘āina, ‘āina isn’t just the land. ‘Āina is everybody, it’s everything coming from the land.

“He ali‘i ka ‘āina, he kauwā ke kanaka. The land is a chief, man is its servant.”

Ke Ali‘i Bernice Pauahi Bishop inherited nearly 2,500 acres of land in Ku‘ia and Paunau from nā ali‘i Ruth Ke‘elikōlani, Victoria Kamāmalu and Mō‘ī William Lunalilo. KS Maui kumu Hōkūao Pellegrino and Iwikauaikaua Joaquin have led school efforts to begin the long journey ahead to reforest the lands by propagating seeds on campus with haumāna from 12th grade all the way down to kindergarten.

As of this school year, KS Maui haumāna have propagated over 3,000 ‘a‘ali‘i and wiliwili seeds which were gathered from various locations in Lahaina, including Ku‘ia, as well as the ‘A‘apueo campus. Haumāna learned every stage of sowing seedlings and also gained an understanding about the importance of endemic plants to local ecosystems.

‘A‘ali‘i are legendarily hearty. When their leaves fall, they provide nutrients and soil stability to promote new growth. The roots of the wiliwili help resist soil erosion.





KS Maui kumu **Kui Gapero KSK'02** brought his He Ali'i Ka 'Āina class as an opportunity to practice what the haumāna have learned at the 'A'apueo campus, while making a positive impact on the Lahaina community.

"These two species do really well in dry-land environments," Joaquin said. "We want to restore the things that were once here that evolved over millions of years. These plants are only found here in the world so why would we try to put something else back in these places?"

"Culturally, it's significant for us to reconnect and put things that belong here and can identify it as our 'ohana. It's bringing our 'ohana back, not just in the sense of the housing, but can ensure that we'll be able to sustain ourselves."

During the class outplanting at Ka Malu, haumāna broke into small teams to dig planting holes with 'ō'ō, remove weeds and place plants in the ground while backfilling with soil.

"I don't usually do things like this, so it's a new experience for me," KS Maui haumāna Kahau Legsay said. "I had so much fun doing this and we actually learned about the plants and how it helps the land. My class (2027) name is 'A'ali'i Kū Makani, so getting to connect with the plant we're named after was nice."

Kumu Gapero, who previously worked on Kaho'olawe as a cultural resource coordinator, explains to his haumāna the importance of being strong like the 'a'ali'i, but also the strength of community.

"When you go to Kaho'olawe, you see some of the 'a'ali'i growing almost sideways because in an environment where there's no protection and nobody else around you, you can still grow but it's difficult," Gapero said. "And then on campus, we discovered a huge 'a'ali'i that was the biggest tree we had there. It was protected all this time and had others around it to take care of it. What I share with my students is imagine

yourself as this 'a'ali'i. If you have your companions around you and you have others around to support you, you can grow up nice and strong.

"Coming out here, we got hundreds of 'a'ali'i going in together, rather than just one. This is a community we're building, it's a community that we're providing for, and so we should put communities into the ground as well."

## Ka Malu kickoff: Fall 2024

The planting by haumāna is a welcome addition to the overall vision for Ka Malu, which reached an important milestone in late 2024. Using heavy equipment, crews planted dozens of large trees, consisting of kukui, kou, milo, 'ulu and hao. Nearly 1,000 cover plants and shrubs were also planted.

"The purpose is to recreate malu and malu means shade. Lahaina was once famous for ka malu 'ulu o Lele, the shade of the 'ulu, the ulu groves of Lele. But malu also means to protect, to feel secure, to feel safety and that's what we're trying to establish in this section – a place that people can come and take a break in the shade in that feeling of security," said **Natalie Kurashima KSK'07**, director of natural resources for Kamehameha Schools' 'Āina Pauahi.

Before the planting took place, community members, including lineal descendants, joined KS 'āina stewards and others at sunrise for a series of chants, oli and pule. The protocols focused on intention setting for the day's work — and beyond.



“Part of it involved acknowledging that we’re asking the ‘āina to help us in this journey and to really carry the bulk of the burden of that for us because we know that really it’s the land that’s going to support the roots and the plants and the things that grow from there. Today was really a time for us to give of ourselves, our sweat and our voices and acknowledge that ask,” Kamehameha Schools’ natural resources manager **R. Mililani Browning KSK’02** said.

In addition to food trees, Ka Malu serves as the entry way into the Ku’ia ahupua’a and will also feature walking trails and educational signage. The work here is the result of a great deal of community consensus building. Kaipō Kekona, who serves as alaka’i of the Ku’ia Agricultural Education Center located on ‘Āina Pauahi adjacent to Ka Malu, has been part of the visioning for not just this area ma waena but for the entire ma uka to ma kai restoration.

“For the past two years or so now, we’ve collectively gotten together with a lot of different local organizations from Lahaina and just tried to have conversations around the idea of what this could be and what it could look like, and what’s possible today with all the different challenges we have. A lot of planning has gone into it, and discussions with our community and feedback, and then we start to develop plans moving forward to see how we can best move this kind of effort forward with a collective energy with our community,” said Kekona.

The work to reshape Ku’ia and to restore abundance to Lahaina is taking place on many levels; from small plants going into the ground to big discussions about water and land. Ke Kula ‘o Kamehameha stands shoulder-to-shoulder with community and the vision to “let Lahaina lead.”



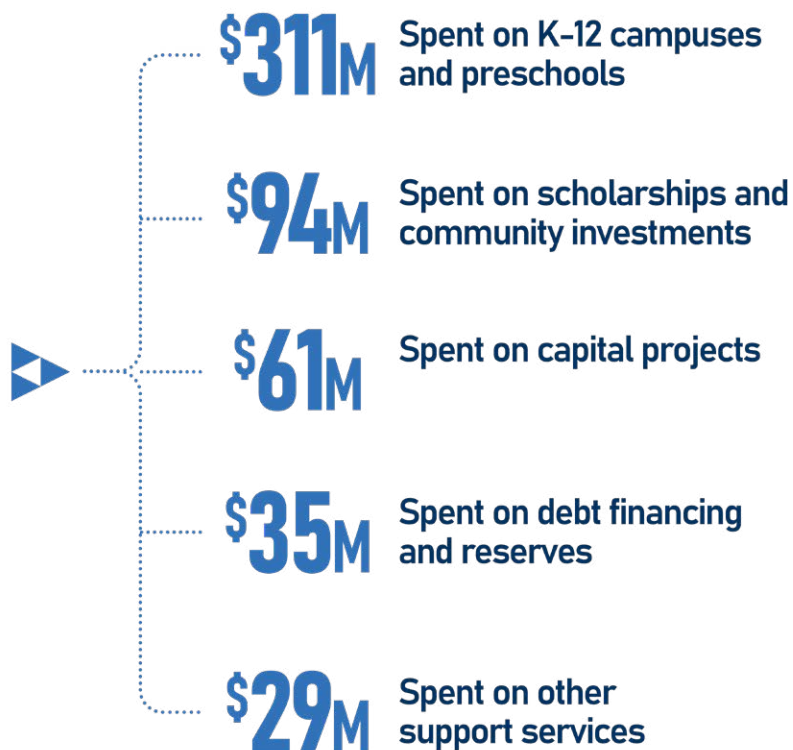


► Resources + Impacts

# EDUCATIONAL SPENDING



**Total educational  
spending**



More than 2 of 3 haumāna received full or partial financial aid





## Kamehameha haumāna march with purpose, honor Queen Lili‘uokalani

As the sound of oli reverberated through the streets of downtown Honolulu, thousands of kānaka ‘ōiwi and kama‘āina marched in unity, hae Hawai‘i fluttering in the breeze.

The annual ‘Onipa‘a Peace March, held to commemorate the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian kingdom and to honor Queen Lili‘uokalani’s legacy, happened days after the opening of the Hawai‘i State Legislature’s 2025 session, adding a layer of complexity for Hawaiians determined to ho‘oulu their Indigenous identity while navigating American systems.

From Mauna‘ala to ‘Iolani Palace, students, teachers and residents streamed the streets, with haumāna from Ke Kula ‘o Kamehameha standing out in bold lines of blue and white to lead the way. With their kumu, the elementary to high schoolers sang mele and carried banners, choosing to celebrate the resilience of Hawai‘i’s last queen.

“It’s our kuleana to participate in this march as a remembrance because it brings light to what happened,” said junior Ava Ulufale. “Even though it’s been over 100 years, our people have been through so much and we still remember. America should, too.”

Throughout the day, haumāna offered ho‘okupu, led oli and hula and engaged with educational speakers and booths that delved into the history of Hawai‘i. The immersive experience left a deep impact on them, many of whom participate consistently like Ulufale.

“We are more active participants in the march because while there is so much mourning still, people utilize that hurt to be powerful and voice their opinions about what should happen in the future,” he said.

Just a day earlier, the Associated Students of Kamehameha Schools attended the opening of the Hawai‘i State Legislature. At the Capitol, high schoolers from all three campuses met with state leaders and listened to the hopes for the new legislative session, a stark contrast to the reflections of the march. For these students, balancing their identity as Hawaiians with the realities of participating in the U.S. government is a delicate, yet pivotal, intersection.

Senior Angelina Star Woo found empowerment in the experience, drawing strength from her ancestors to confidently engage in spaces dominated by adults.



“When I go into any space, I bring my identity and my values with me,” Woo said. “Being Hawaiian gives me something to fight for and the values to stand on and offer to the table.”

Advocating for issues like food sovereignty and climate change, Woo appreciated hearing directly from decision-makers about their priorities. The ASKS member recognizes that if she wants to better her lāhui in the future, diverse opportunities like these equip her to answer that call.

“Having just a seat at the table, being able to hear what’s happening, why it’s happening, and learning from them is the absolute best thing we can ask for from our current leaders because we hope to impact and create change in our futures,” Woo said.

Classmate Ayceton Aono felt a current of hope at both the march and the legislative opening. Surrounded by fellow

kānaka, he shared immense pride in his heritage and was inspired to see Hawaiian leaders in government roles. He and fellow student leader Addis Belay admire community figures who take initiative, like a house representative who got licensed to drive school buses during a shortage, and actively address issues in their districts.

“People always say that the youth are the leaders of tomorrow, but they forget that adults are the leaders of today and they need to be the examples of what they want us to be,” Aono said. “Because one day, it will be one of us up there.”

As the legislative session began and the march concluded, KS haumāna carried the spirit of Queen Lili‘uokalani as they ready themselves to take their place as Hawaiians serving Hawai‘i. Grounded in their heritage, they are carving out a space where Hawaiian identity and modern governance powerfully coexist, driving the pursuit of cultural and political sovereignty for future generations.



Ava Ulufale (bottom left) is a repeat march participant, saying it is his kuleana to learn Hawai‘i’s history and share it with others.





► Resources + Impacts

# CAMPUSES

## KS HAWAII



**1,190**

Enrolled



**140**

Graduates

## KS MAUI



**1,141**

Enrolled



**123**

Graduates

## KS KAPĀLAMA



**3,212**

Enrolled



**419**

Graduates



## Aloha meets aroha: Waimānalo preschoolers engage in cultural exchange with Māori kumu

In a joyful celebration of shared heritage and cross-cultural connection, the haumāna of Kamehameha Preschools-Waimānalo welcomed the kumu of Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Heretaunga from Aotearoa for a vibrant cultural exchange. This visit united kumu and keiki from across Moananuiākea through mele, mo'olelo and traditions.

The exchange began with a lively performance by the visiting Māori immersion school teachers, who captivated the Waimānalo keiki with traditional songs and poi dances. In return, the haumāna shared mele honoring Ke Ali'i Pauahi, whose immense vision has uplifted generations of Hawaiians. This reciprocal sharing highlighted similarities and unique aspects of each culture, fostering a sense of interconnectedness.

"One of the many things we share is a love for 'āina, a love for our people, and a love for our kūpuna. These guide our decisions to fulfill our kuleana," said LaniRae Pedro, hope po'o kumu for Kamehameha Schools Preschools. "Exposing our keiki to this exchange strengthens who they are, where they come from, and their kuleana to this place we love so dearly, Hawai'i."

Tauawhia Kira, a visiting Māori kumu, reflected, "It's very important for the keiki to know where they came from. Holding on to what our ancestors have passed on is crucial as we move forward."

The exchange celebrated shared values such as love for the land and ancestral wisdom while highlighting parallels between Hawaiian and Māori experiences. Both communities are engaged in widespread cultural and language preservation movements, advancing social justice and inspiring future generations to carry these legacies forward.

Cultural exchanges broaden keiki perspectives, develop empathy and deepen their understanding of the world.

Kamehameha Schools Preschools is dedicated to nurturing 'ōiwi leaders who embody the values of aloha, kuleana and mālama. Opportunities like this exchange highlight the unique experiences that KSP provides, preparing keiki to contribute positively to the lāhui and a diverse, global society.

"Indigenous people are everywhere," said Ashley Kalaiwa'a, a Waimānalo Preschool kumu who lived in Aotearoa and was immersed in the culture. "Our mele and the way we perform them may differ, but underlying all that, we are Indigenous people fighting injustices and striving to preserve our languages and traditions."

The exchange included action songs taught by the Māori group, encouraging the keiki to move and connect through laughter, rhythm and the joy of learning.

"Our keiki did a fantastic job sharing their identity with our Māori cousins," Kalaiwa'a noted.

Kamehameha Schools Preschools offer enriching experiences rooted in Hawaiian culture-based education, fostering growth, connection, and leadership. Through engaging activities and meaningful exchanges like this, keiki build a strong cultural foundation and embrace aloha, kuleana, and mālama, preparing them to thrive as 'ōiwi leaders.





► Resources + Impacts

# PRESCHOOLS



**30**

Preschool  
sites

**1,683**

Preschool  
haumāna



## Hō'ike 2025 - 'Emalani is now available for viewing

On April 25, 1885, Queen Emma Kalanikaumakaʻamano Kaleleonālani Naʻea Rooke passed away after suffering a series of strokes.

'Emalani, the opera, spans the entire life of Queen Emma and highlights many significant events in her life and in the history of Hawai'i. It is presented in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and English. It is Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i's sixth original Hawaiian opera performance. Senior Brooklynn Lumanlan starred as Queen Emma with senior Jhayden Mata portraying King Kamehameha IV Alexander Liholiho.

The production features beautiful hula and mele that help weave together this story of resilience and carrying forward kuleana in the service of our lāhui. Hō'ike is a special tradition of the Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i high school, sharing mo'olelo from our history in dynamic and entertaining ways.

Hō'ike 2025 was presented to the public twice, on Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14 in our Koai'a Gymnasium.



Download the  
'Emalani Show  
Program



Watch 'Emalani Now  
On The KS Youtube  
Channel



## ► 'ĀINA STEWARDSHIP

# Stewarding the Land for Resilient Futures

'Āina Pauahi honors and builds upon the legacy of Ke Ali'i Bernice Pauahi Bishop and her gift of 'āina, which continues to sustain and empower our lāhui. Through a unified 'āina portfolio approach and culturally rooted stewardship, we ensure that our lands remain abundant, accessible and nurtured. We do this through thoughtful planning, regenerative practices, and strategic investments that cultivate ea and yield financial returns.



### Restoration allows Kūpopolo Heiau to stand tall once again

PG.19



### Lauhoe: Dual-campus collaboration boosts loko i'a restoration

PG.22



### Empowering local entrepreneurs: Kamehameha Schools awards newest Mahi'ai Match-Up winners

PG.25



### Kauikeaouli's vision lives on at annual festival

PG.27





## Restoration allows Kūpopolo Heiau to stand tall once again

Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha has shepherded the painstaking restoration of Kūpopolo Heiau on O'ahu's North Shore. The kānaka-led effort to bring the one-acre site back from the brink serves as a lama kuhikuhi — a bright beacon — demonstrating how breathing life into 'āina helps breathe life into our lāhui.

Located on 'Āina Pauahi just 300 yards from Waimea Bay, mo'olelo vary as to why this wahi kūpuna was built. One mo'olelo tells of it being constructed in the 18th century to serve as a thought portal to the island of Kaua'i for the powerful O'ahu kahuna nui and seer, Ka'ōpulupulu. Another mana, or branch, of this mo'olelo suggests Menehune built it much earlier and even brought in pōhaku from Mokulē'ia, several miles away.

Jon Tulchin, a cultural resources manager with Kamehameha Schools' 'Āina Pauahi Group, says there's evidence to support both mo'olelo.

"The archeology is interesting. Radiocarbon dating of the heiau's wall construction shows certain areas are much older and other sections that are from the time of Ka'ōpulupulu, suggesting the ancient site may have been repurposed in the 1700s," Tulchin said.

There's far less intrigue in what happens next to the site once colonial forces took root in the islands. Grazing cattle trampled many of the rock walls, and runoff from a privately-owned plantation ma uka buried the heiau in 300 tons

of lepo 'ula'ula. That's the equivalent of a fully loaded 747 commercial plane sitting on top of the structure. Somehow Kūpopolo endured.

"This speaks to the ingenuity and the strength of design of our kūpuna. The fact that this structure can support 300 tons of weight for 100-200 years," Tulchin said.

While the site may have fallen victim to man-made forces, having it become part of the 'Āina Pauahi portfolio through nā ali'i in the late 19th century prevented further degradation and desecration.



Starting in 2010, Kamehameha Schools began mapping the site. Restoration work went into high gear in the fall of 2023.

The removal of over 300 tons of lepo 'ula'ula was delicate and painstaking. No excavators, just hand tools and buckets. Contractor Pacific Legacy engineered an ingenious portable zipline pulley system that allowed workers to load the lepo into buckets and send it ma kai to a stockpile area without



disturbing the rockwall structures. Well over 20 thousand bucketloads have been filled and emptied using this method.

In 2024, with much of the soil removed, a group of uhaumu pōhaku — stone masons — with on-site consultation from legendary builder Francis Palani Sinenci, began restoring the rockwall structure.

“Touching stones that were hundreds of years old. Touching stones that have been lifted by kūpuna. Just imagine. This is direct contact to the past,” said Sinenci, who in the 1990s was instrumental in bringing back the lost art of traditional kūkulu hale and uhaumu pōhaku.

In the years that followed, kumu Sinenci helped create Hawai‘i’s Indigenous Architecture Building Code and founded Hālau Hale Kuhikuhi, ensuring this Indigenous knowledge will be passed on down through the generations.

“I believe I have created about three or four masters carrying on the tradition. I believe I helped them along. Now I know I can make and I got guys that can do it,” Sinenci said.

Sinenci is now well into his 80s, and his impact on Hawaiian hale building and heiau restoration is akin to those alaka‘i who brought back Hawaiian wayfinding.

At Kūpopolo, kumu Sinenci led the masons each work day in oli and hemū — a declaration of intent lest their presence anger spirits there.

“Every heiau, every fishpond, every hale we build, we always do the same protocol. Quiet the mind with the hemū and ask for ‘ike from above with the oli ‘E Hō Mai,” Sinenci said.

The longer the masons spent unearthing and placing pōhaku, the deeper their connection grew.

“You can hear the birds, you can hear the makani as it blows through the trees. You hear the pounding of the surf.

Sometimes the surf is so big, it looks like we’re in fog because the ocean spray is so thick. You’re not just on a job site. It’s very different here,” said Kainoa Holt, a stone mason and protege of Sinenci.

“We feel like our kūpuna on the other side of the veil must have had a hand in bringing us to this space and allowing us to do this work,” said Kalawai‘a Moore, an alaka‘i mason, who also holds a Ph.D. and serves as director of Hawaiian studies at Windward Community College.

Under Sinenci’s tutelage, the masons knew to look out for an ingenious building method of our kūpuna. Pōhaku niho — triangular-shaped stones placed vertically — helped them find the ancient blueprint and borders of the structure. Just like one does when starting a complex jigsaw puzzle.

“We’re peeling back the layers and we’re seeing, wow, this line actually goes this way. Or look at this channel ... this must have been used for something. When you’re putting your hands on the site itself, you really get to experience what was built here. It has been incredible,” Holt said.

One unique feature crews unearthed on the site is two large sunken circular indentations on opposite ends of the structure directly overlooking Waimea Bay. The leading theory is that they functioned as outposts for kia‘i.

This and a good many more secrets remain in the pōhaku of Kūpopolo Heiau, waiting for future generations to ask the right questions. With restoration now complete, Ke Kula ‘o Kamehameha is exploring cultural and educational opportunities for kaiāulu to experience, connect and breathe life anew into this wahi kūpuna.

“We might not know what the future use will be, but if the site is still here 200 years from now, that’s enough. The next generation will know,” Tulchin said.



► Resources + Impacts

# ‘ĀINA STEWARDSHIP



**Invested (net of agricultural rents) to  
steward agricultural and conservation  
‘āina across Hawai‘i**





## Lauhoe: Dual-campus collaboration boosts loko i'a restoration

Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha's multi-layered approach to 'āina portfolio management and stewardship continues to grow and evolve in support of its 'Ōiwi education mission. This includes supporting the important work of restoring wahi pana — including loko i'a throughout the pae 'āina.

"This place grounds them and gives them purpose. That's waiwai."

This mana'o, from Honu'āina Nichols KSK'18, refers to the transformative work taking place at Mālama Loko Ea in the Kawaiolo ahupua'a on O'ahu's North Shore. As an education coordinator there, Nichols is one of the connection points in a special loko i'a collaboration involving haumāna and kumu from Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha Hawai'i and Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha Kapālama.

The collab's mission? Exercising ea — breathing life — into loko i'a and haumāna through the blending of 'ike kūpuna and modern science.

### Kumuola: A source of science, culture and ea

The origin of this two-campus collaboration started on Hawai'i Island. For several years, haumāna from Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha Hawai'i have enjoyed a world-class science

and cultural learning experience at Kumuola Marine Science Education Center. Located on 'Āina Pauahi in the moku of Hilo, Kumuola consists of three loko i'a that are in various phases of restoration.

**Kumu Trisha Leilani Soares Olayon KSK'04** is a project-based researcher at Kumuola. Over the course of seven years, she's been part of the kākou effort to transform the loko i'a, once unrecognizable and choked out by invasive grass, into a thriving cultural, ecological and educational space. Kuana'ike Hawai'i fuels her passion for restoration.

"So traditionally, you could tell how a community was doing based on the kuapā of their loko i'a. If the rock wall was standing and in good order, that meant they had resources — kākou — to keep it standing and functioning. If a community was at war or was in disarray, that kuapā would not look orderly because they simply didn't have the resources to put into these types of spaces."

Colonialism and climate change have made loko i'a restoration even harder. Invasive species brought in post-contact are muscling out native i'a. AP Biology haumāna at KS Hawai'i began attacking this modern problem with modern technology. Using specialized DNA testing equipment, they provide invaluable insight into the ratio of native to invasive



mullet coming into the loko i'a through its mākāhā (gate). In the pua stage, native 'ama'ama and invasive kanda (Australian mullet) look identical to the naked eye. Once adults, the kanda eat far more than 'ama'ama, disrupting the ecological balance.

"We've now successfully sampled our sixth year of genetics and we're starting to see trends in recruitment — when native fish come in, when invasives spike, and how it ties to the moon," said Olayon.

## A new kind of learning at Kapālama

The scientific rigor — and more importantly the results — of the DNA project also caught the eye of kumu at KS Kapālama. That included Tisha Louis KSK'88, who built out the curriculum to teach Kapālama's first-ever marine science class, Ka 'Oihana Lawai'a: Fisheries Management in Hawai'i, in the 2024-2025 school year.

"Many of our haumāna fish and dive on the weekends, and we started thinking about how to build upon the 'ike from their 'ohana and communities to open up possible future career paths in a hands-on environment," Louis said.

To help fill out her lesson plans, she spent time learning at Kumuola and also connecting with and learning from kahu of loko i'a on O'ahu, including at Mālama Loko Ea. Through these exchanges and pilina-building, she learned that Mālama Loko Ea had a need for DNA testing too, and that served as the springboard for the special collaboration between KS Hawai'i and KS Kapālama.

## From Kea'au to Kapālama, with aloha

In January 2025, haumāna and kumu from KS Hawai'i and Kumuola made the trek to kumu Louis' marine fisheries class at Kapālama. For the first time, haumāna there got to do their own DNA testing — all thanks to the expertise of their counterparts on Hawai'i Island.

"Our AP Biology students at Kea'au have had a lot of time with this. They're really confident. So kumu Tisha and I thought, 'What if we bring them up to help you guys do your sampling?'" Olayon said.

The PCR technology used on i'a is the same tech that we all experienced during the days of COVID-19 testing.

"It was a cool experience to understand that you can take DNA from the fins of the fish, and you can tell the difference between 'ama'ama and kanda," said Keanu Souza, a KS Kapālama marine fisheries haumāna.

The results of testing are quite bleak. At Kumuola, the ratio of invasive to native mullet is 10-to-1. But that's actually far better than the near-shore waters, where invasive mullet outnumber natives 20-to-1. But this testing is crucial in establishing the baseline needed to then begin working on solutions.

## Building on a legacy

Not to be lost in this is the fact that both Mālama Loko Ea and Kumuola are on 'Āina Pauahi. Ke Ali'i Pauahi's foresight to protect 'āina and educate keiki allows these wahi pana to not just exist but thrive.

"If it weren't for this being Kamehameha Schools' land, this pond (Mālama Loko Ea) would likely not still be here. Sadly, the typical story of loko i'a is that they get filled up and turned into a baseball field and then a parking lot. That's the story of Mokuhinia in Lahaina. So we're very fortunate to be able to continue to steward this 'āina and reveal her. She was never gone," Nichols said.

In the second year of the marine fisheries science class, KS Kapālama haumāna plan to expand their newly acquired DNA testing skills at Mālama Loko Ea and possibly other loko i'a on O'ahu. And at Kumuola, traditional and modern science will continue to breathe life into the community.

"Food sustainability is the ultimate goal. That's absolutely the light at the end of the tunnel. But on the way there, you can feed a person's maui. You can provide them with space to grow mea kanu, to learn traditional practices," Olayon said.

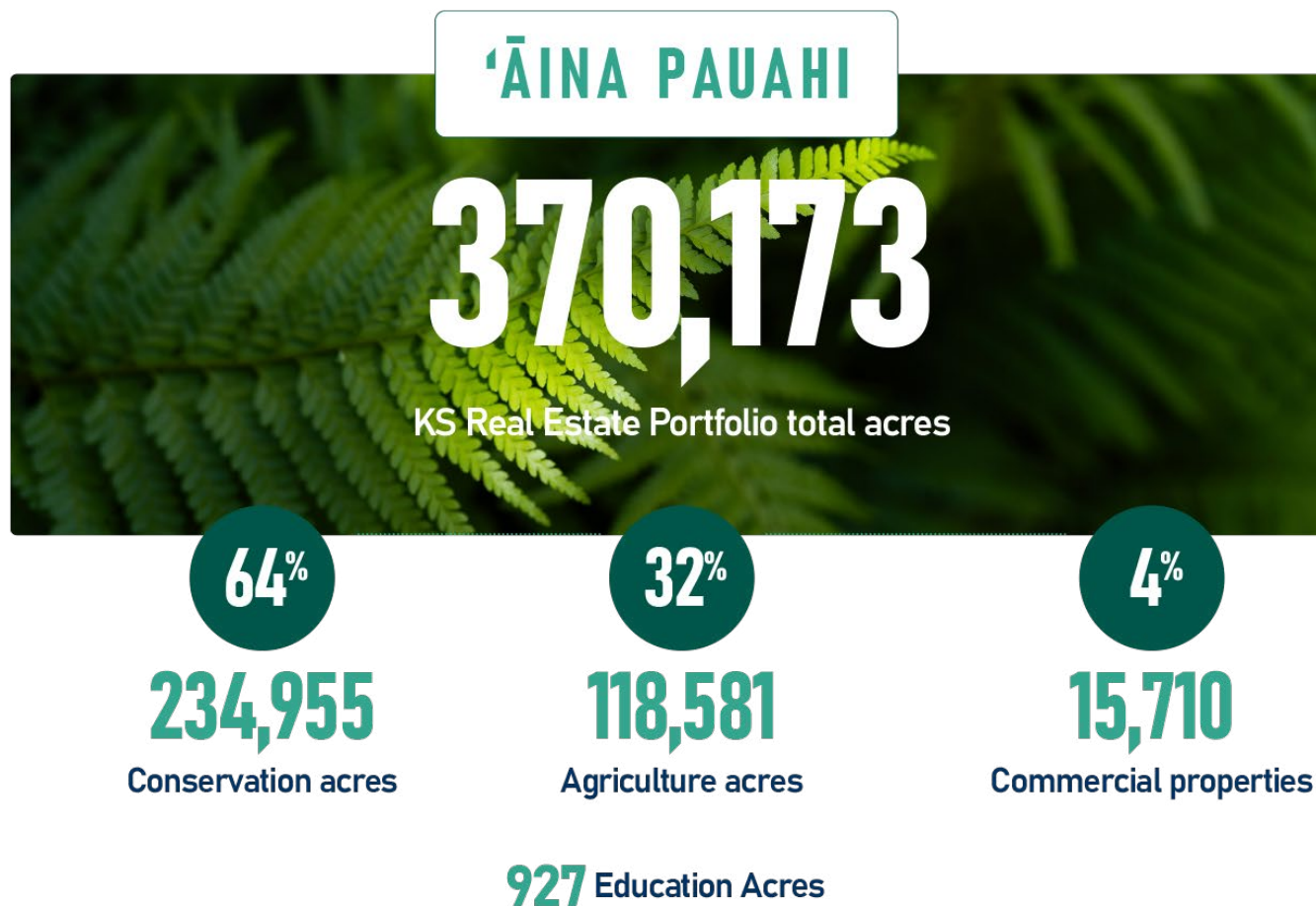
"At the end of the day, it's sovereignty. It's independence. And for us, that's food. It's feeding people. True sovereignty is being able to take care of your people," Nichols said.





► Resources + Impacts

# ‘ĀINA PAUAHI





## Empowering local entrepreneurs: Kamehameha Schools awards newest Mahi'ai Match-Up winners

Four visionary food-focused entrepreneurs are taking their businesses to the next level with the help of Kamehameha Schools' 2024 Mahi'ai Match-Up competition. Hā Tonics, The Local General Store, Polipoli Farms and Manu Brewing Co. will share the \$50,000 prize to supercharge their ventures, contributing to more sustainable and resilient food systems in Hawai'i.

"Through Mahi'ai Match-Up, Kamehameha Schools empowers leaders in the local food industry to shape a regenerative and resilient food system for Hawai'i through an 'ōiwi worldview," said Kā'eo Duarte, vice president of Kamehameha Schools' 'Āina Pauahi. "These aspirational businesses are improving the well-being of our lāhui by providing nutritious, sustainably sourced food products, while simultaneously perpetuating 'ike kūpuna and building 'ono for traditional crops."

In a night of celebration at 'Aha 'Āina Pauahi, the competition spotlighted the power of innovation to transform Hawai'i's food system. Over 200 industry leaders, from agriculture to community organizations, gathered at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel to enjoy delectable bites and drinks while honoring the Mahi'ai Match-Up winners, finalists and other food systems leaders who are nourishing Hawai'i's communities.

From superfood powders to the world's first sparkling māma-ki tea, the 2024 winners walk away with capital, mentorship and resources to grow their impact across the islands. This year's theme, Ho'omohala a Ulu, reflected the competition's mission to invest in Hawai'i's food system by supporting business models rooted in cultural values and sustainability. Eight finalists were selected to pitch their plans before a panel of judges, and four winners emerged.

In the "Growth and Scaling" category, Maui's Polipoli Farms received \$15,000 for their regenerative farming operation, noting that the funds will be used to establish a food processing hub to scale production. Manu Brewing Co., helmed by Kamehameha Schools alum Kent Kurashima, was awarded \$10,000 to support the construction of their new brewery space, streamlining production for their sparkling māma-ki tea.

"When we first started, we were told not to grow our cultural crops because they had no value. So being the Mahi'ai Match-Up winner feels so good because it proves that there are people out there who do find value in the food that we grow," said Lehia Apana, co-founder of Polipoli Farms.





Hawai'i Island-based Hā Tonics took home \$15,000 in the "Investment Prep and Expansion" category. The company specializes in micronized food powders made from locally sourced produce, and the prize will fund machinery upgrades, allowing them to increase production and expand their market. The Local General Store, another "Investment Prep" winner, was awarded \$10,000 to expand its operations and continue making locally sourced products more accessible at its Kaimukī location.

"For local people, creating an authentic approach to business is the future of Hawai'i," Puna Tripp of Hā Tonics said.

The celebration also spotlighted the Mahi'ai Ao Scholarship program, which supports students pursuing careers in food systems. Proceeds from the fundraiser will seed future scholarships, further growing Hawai'i's agricultural talent pipeline.

Since its inception 11 years ago, Mahi'ai Match-Up has empowered 24 local businesses, reinforcing Kamehameha Schools' commitment to bolstering Hawai'i's food resilience. Learn more about the winners and the broader initiative at [ksbe.edu/mahiai](https://ksbe.edu/mahiai).



KS Hawai'i haumāna helped their kumu DJ High (right) serve up smoked meat and kalo rolls at the event.



## Kauikeaouli's vision lives on at annual festival

Each year, Kamehameha Schools honors the life and enduring legacy of Kauikeaouli through an 'aha mele and celebration at his birthplace, Keauhou Bay, by highlighting organizations that uplift the community through education.

The 24th annual Kauikeaouli Festival brought people to the Outrigger Kona Resort and Spa last March. His reign marked a period of profound change. Kamehameha III established a constitutional government, safeguarded Hawai'i's sovereignty during the 1843 British occupation and restoration, and championed universal education. Ahead of his time, he established Hawai'i's public school system in 1840 – decades before many other nations – laying the foundation for a kingdom built on education and enlightenment. This year's festival theme reflected that vision for his people: "He aupuni palapala ko'u" – Mine is the kingdom of literacy.

"This festival offered a unique opportunity for the community to reconnect with the cherished 'āina of Ka Lani Kauikeaouli," said Kaimana Barcarse, 'Āina Pauahi's director of sites and facilities at Kamehameha Schools. "We invited kānaka to return and engage with these lands that hold deep historical and cultural importance."

A proud partner of the birthday celebration is the Daughters of Hawai'i, a nonprofit founded to perpetuate Hawaiian culture by preserving two of Hawai'i's royal palaces and Kauikeaouli's birthplace.

To learn more about the impact of Kauikeaouli, visit [www.ksbe.edu/kauikeaouli/about-kauikeaouli](http://www.ksbe.edu/kauikeaouli/about-kauikeaouli).



Learn more about  
the impact of  
Kauikeaouli



## ► COMMUNITY

# Empowering 'Ōiwi Leaders to Revitalize and Restore

Guided by the foresight of Ke Ali'i Pauahi, Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha remains firmly committed to uplifting Hawai'i's communities through investments that blend cultural stewardship, 'āina resilience and educational equity. From strengthening local food systems to fostering connection through values grounded in 'ike kūpuna, Kamehameha Schools supports the long-term well-being of keiki and 'ohana while nurturing 'Ōiwi identity. Through all of its efforts, KS stays steadfast in cultivating thriving communities rooted in Hawaiian values and collective impact.



## Strength in every pound: How the Lahaina community is reclaiming its traditional roots

PG.29



## Language of the land: Highlights from Ola Ka 'Ī

PG.32



## 'Āina restoration hui on Kaua'i expands reach with support from KS Kaiāulu

PG.34



## KS Kaiāulu and partners break barriers to higher education

PG.37



## Strength in every pound: How the Lahaina community is reclaiming its traditional roots

Through partnerships, outreach and financial support, Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha stands shoulder to shoulder with kaiāulu to strengthen cultural bonds and uplift 'ohana. That's evident in Lahaina, where there's more happening than just the rebuilding of structures. The sense of community, rooted in culture and 'āina, is also undergoing renewal.

In the fall of 2024, the Ku'ia Agricultural Education Center, located on Āina Pauahi, hosted workshops for families affected by the fires to reclaim their roots in the famous ahupua'a. Led by Lo'iloa, a Maui nonprofit dedicated to healing through Hawaiian practices, keiki and kūpuna worked side by side, carving boards and stone pounders to prepare kalo — some replacing cherished tools lost in the flames.

**Kupono Cabanas KSM'12** and **Makana Pundyke KSM'12** demonstrate the art of pounding poi.

Instructor and Lo'iloa founder Kawewehi Pundyke, along with his daughter **Makana Pundyke KSM'12** and son-in-law **Kupono Cabanas KSM'12**, made the long pre-dawn drive from Upcountry, hauling tools and safety gear. Purposefully selecting stones from Lahaina, Pundyke pre-cut them to help families jump-start the second session of their workshop.

The former police officer and pastor has seen firsthand the impact of teaching papa ku'i 'ai and pōhaku ku'i ai. While

working with struggling youth in detention centers, he taught them to grow kalo in 'īao and craft their boards for harvesting. For many of those students, the hands-on experience forged a deeper connection to their Hawaiian identity and sense of belonging.

"We're up here, looking out over all that was lost but they get to say, 'We're still here,'" Pundyke said of the Lahaina cohort. "To stand here and make something — that's resilience. I hope this class helps them to believe in themselves because every time they ku'i, they're going to remember what they can build."

For some, the symbolism was undeniable. After finishing her pōhaku, one resident went straight to the waterfront, where the foundation of her family home was being poured that same day — a reminder of the small and big revivals in Lahaina.

Even for those who had crafted these tools before, the experience felt different. **Pa'ele Kiakona KSH'13**, a lead organizer for Lahaina Strong, said working alongside others renewed his energy.

"Lahaina literally means a relentless, unforgiving sun, and I take that to heart," Kiakona said. "There are days it's hard, but I am of Lahaina and I will continue to be relentless."





For Ku'ia Agricultural Education Center founder Kaipo Kekona, the papa and pōhaku are symbols of Hawaiian innovation and perseverance. The longtime farmer and educator sees the resurgence of these traditions as a guide for restoration, leaning on Lahaina's tenacious history far preceding August 2023.

Kaipo Kekona (center) interacts with workshop participants at Ku'ia Agricultural Education Center.

"When we take what is produced and create something of added value, it transforms the community," Kekona said. "Before money dictated economics, this process — turning kalo into poi — created value, strengthened families and shaped how we cared for one another."

That's why he invited families who aren't just recovering but leading the way for Lahaina's future.

"We need more opportunities like this," he said. "The ones doing the work — we're burning out. We have to find ways to recharge, to stay in these hard conversations and keep pushing forward."

As 'ohana prepared pa'i 'ai and talked story over lunch, the workshop reaffirmed what Kekona has always known: True resilience isn't just enduring hardship — it's rising as a lāhui.

"We've already proven we're resilient. You don't have to push us any harder to prove that," Kekona said. "Now we need support. And when that's too hard to find, we make our own."



► Resources + Impacts

# COMMUNITY SPENDING



Total spent serving  
the community





Ola Ka ʻĪ - Kāhala Mall

## Language of the land: Highlights from Ola Ka ʻĪ

Throughout Mahina ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, Ola Ka ʻĪ brought together students, educators and community members to celebrate the resilience and vibrancy of the Hawaiian language. Across Hawai‘i pae ‘āina, the beauty of the Hawaiian culture and identity came to life as kūpuna graced the stage, sharing songs with dancing keiki, while artists and practitioners shared their ‘ike Hawai‘i-infused works with the crowds.

“It feels overwhelming and I’m constantly fighting back the tears with all the beautiful moments that are happening,” said Keonilei Lealiifano, the president of Nā Leo Kāko‘o O‘ahu, the parent-teacher association for Ke Kula Kaiaupuni ‘o Ānuenue, who helped facilitate the first Ola Ka ʻĪ at Kāhala Mall this year.

“This is a culmination of our mission and vision to see this happening. This interaction between all these different communities, bringing us together for ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, mea Hawai‘i and more,” Lealiifano said. “There is no better feeling.”

From hands-on activities engaging ‘ohana to commanding speech performances that captivated audiences, Ola Ka ʻĪ celebrated the ongoing work to revitalize and normalize ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i. As the lāhui gathered in laughter and learning, the language continued to thrive in interactions far beyond the gathering. Like a booming chorus, it is a reminder that ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i is not only heard, but felt, seen and lived.



Uniting through ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i at Ola Ka ʻĪ Maui Nui



Celebrating ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i at Windward Mall

► **Resources + Impacts**

# COMMUNITY LEARNERS SERVED



**82,903**

**Learners reached  
through KS Kaiāulu**





## ‘Āina restoration hui on Kaua‘i expands reach with support from KS Kaiāulu

The Alakoko Fishpond near Nāwiliwili Harbor in East Kaua‘i is a one-of-a-kind cultural treasure. Established some 600 years ago on a bend of the Hūle‘ia river, it’s believed to be the first fishpond built in brackish waters (a mix of kai and wai) in Hawai‘i pae ‘āina. The methods and materials used to construct the 2,600-foot-long wall are unusual too. Many sections feature an earthen berm, others are primarily rockwall. Some areas are so deep, it’s likely kānaka had to dive underwater to put rocks in place. It’s so complex that some mo‘olelo suggest Menehune helped build it, which is where its modern inoa — Menehune Fishpond — comes from.

As a wahi pana and Kaua‘i’s largest loko i‘a, the Alakoko Fishpond is no doubt worthy of preservation and restoration. In recent years and with the backing of KS Kaiāulu, the ‘āina-focused hui Mālama Hūle‘ia has made great strides in not only protecting and restoring this place but transforming it into a learning lab for future ‘Ōiwi leaders.

Peleke Flores, Mālama Hūle‘ia’s director of community and ‘āina engagement, says Alakoko is uniquely suited for place-based learning.

“Within 50 feet from the pond, you have a spring which feeds a lo‘i kalo, there’s also ‘auwai leading to the fishpond which then leads to the sea. All this is within a very short distance.

Normally you would have to drive and make several stops to see all these things.”

Haumāna from almost every kula on Kaua‘i have listened and learned at Alakoko.

“I think we learn more from the haumāna. Like Kapa‘a High School, they did DNA testing within the waters and they found several different kinds of fish and plankton DNA.”

For the past five+ years, KS Kaiāulu has helped uplift Mālama Hūle‘ia and its educational mission.

“I’ve witnessed the remarkable transformation Mālama Hūle‘ia has helped create in recent years. Their mission has expanded from a wetland restoration initiative primarily focused on removing encroaching red mangroves along the river, to a dynamic force that constantly challenges the underlying reasons for our actions,” said **Erin Kauhaealae Cobb-Adams KSK’99**, KS community engagement manager for the Kaua‘i/ Ni‘ihau region.



Peleke Flores

Cobb-Adams says the restoration work happening at Alakoko is impressive too. Volunteers have cleared out 26 acres of invasive red mangrove. Their next big-ticket item is clearing 16 acres of submerged sediment that built up over time in the mangroves' complex root system. But the mangrove removal alone has already had a big impact on native plants.

"We've been observing native plants like 'ae'ae for instance. The baby o'opu hide underneath when the tide is low and then when the tide rises they go out and explore more. We also have makaloa and native birds like 'alae 'ula like them, they pick at the seeds a lot," said Flores who also says the Alakoko Fishpond offers countless lessons in 'ike kūpuna.

"The past 100 years mostly focused on the economic value of fishponds. For instance, how many pounds of fish per acre per year and converting that into a dollar value. But that's not how our kūpuna viewed it. This pond is an amplifier. Plankton blooms feed baby fish which then overflow into the nearshore fisheries, which feed the larger pelagic fish and that starts to fill up our 'outside icebox', the ocean, which allowed everyone in that time to go out and take from there. It's a different mindset."

Flores and Mālama Hulē'ia have been changing mindsets through monthly volunteer events which build community, and they've even developed online curriculum to deepen understanding of place.

Cobb-Adams marveled at the success of an event called E Kū Ana Ka Paia. In fall 2023, nearly 2,000 volunteers comprised of uhaul humu pōhaku (Hawaiian stone masons), loko i'a experts and others helped restore parts of the Alakoko rockwall in what's believed to be the largest modern workday gathering ever on Kaua'i.

"Mālama Hulē'ia prioritizes community education. Their focus on loko i'a as a bio-indicator — a cultural practice that amplifies the concept of wai momona (abundant water) and ultimately contributes to a thriving watershed," said Cobb-Adams.

Flores sees a bright future for restoration and reclamation across the pae 'āina.

"All we need are a couple of great examples on each island and then it starts to amplify and spread. This [Alakoko Fishpond] can be one example for here. This is our biggest fishpond on Kaua'i, it can be the training ground so that people can learn and then begin restoring other fishponds on this island."

KS Kaiāulu uplifts a wide array of community centered resources and opportunities that embrace keiki, 'ōpio and 'ohana.





► Resources + Impacts

# COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS



Serving 4,114 Learners

**\$10.3M**

To 1,074 Learners  
for early learning  
scholarships

**\$4.8M**

To 535 Learners  
for K-12  
scholarships

**\$17.7M**

To 2,505 Learners  
for post-high  
scholarships



## KS Kaiāulu and partners break barriers to higher education

A group of almost 30 representatives from private, public, and community colleges met at Chaminade University to highlight the importance of providing higher education opportunities for rising seniors and juniors in high schools.

KS Kaiāulu hosted its third annual Early College Symposium for community partners to share best practices and envision future collaboration, supporting programs that address career and college readiness and degree completion.

About 30 attendees from private, public and community colleges convened at Chaminade University in Kalaepōhaku to highlight the importance of providing higher education opportunities for rising high school juniors and seniors. The network is breaking down silos by bringing together universities across Hawai'i pae 'āina to exchange knowledge and resources.

KS Kaiāulu supports early college programs that allow students, especially those in rural and underserved areas, to earn college credits while still in high school. Together, the coalition of community partners is dedicated to graduating more 'ōiwi leaders, who are grounded in E Ola! learner outcomes and embracing the kuleana to activate ea.

To Chaminade Vice Provost Janet T. Davidson, this kind of empowerment wouldn't be possible without the support of KS Kaiāulu and community partners, like Kāpa'a High School, working together.

"It's Kāpa'a's support on the ground, it's the hands-on support of our faculty. Kamehameha Schools has been there from

the beginning," Davidson said. "This program is emblematic of what you can do when partners work together because everyone just wants these kids to succeed."

Chaminade freshmen Julia Durocher and Sarah Morioka, both graduates of the Kapa'a High School early college program, said starting college in high school challenged them academically and grew their confidence – something they would not have been able to accomplish without holistic support.

"Before the term even started, all the professors came to meet us and it showed how much they cared," Sarah said. "From then, I knew the program was the right choice because I was surrounded by people who want the best for my education."

Kahele Keawe, Kāpa'a High School counselor and director of early college programs, was proud to see his former students thriving. Since the program's founding three years ago, it has grown from 10 graduates in its first year to more than double that number today.

"These students are exactly what we hope for in this work," Keawe said. "Their transition to college is smoother because we prepare them to be successful in new environments and handle the pressures that come with it."





Sarah Morioka (from left to right) and Julia Durocher spoke on a panel moderated by Manuwai Peters at the KS Kaiāulu Early College Symposium.

While early college programs are often taken by “high-fly-ing” students – those already excelling scholastically – KS Kaiāulu’s partnerships focus on serving those students who may be flying under the radar, filling the need for learners in rural or financially disadvantaged communities, and first-generation college students.

“It’s about empowering children to know that college is not something they have to be exceptional for – it’s something they deserve to have the opportunity to experience,” Chaminade Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Lance Askildson said.

In addition to Chaminade’s Kāpa’a High School early college program, KS Kaiāulu funds programming that enables Hawaiian charter schools and Kula Kaiapuni haumāna to enter college. Windward Community College, the University of Hawai’i at Hilo and the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa all offer mentorship and academic programs intentionally crafted for native students, creating a familiar environment that perpetuates Hawaiian language and values.

“We treat them like ‘ohana so they have ‘anakala and ‘anakē when they come to college. That way, it’s not so big and scary,” said Kanoe Kanaka’ole, coordinator at Ka Haka-ula o Ke’elikōlani at UH Hilo.



The summit also featured a panel of former inmates who took college courses and graduated with an associate degree from Chaminade while serving time at Hālawā Correctional Facility. The speakers, all currently taking credits to complete a Bachelor’s degree, impacted the na’au of attendees with their stories of struggle and success, underscoring how education and caring instructors were a transformative force in their lives.

“This panel validated our assumptions that a personal and caring approach to support college learners is key to success, no matter what their position or circumstances are,” said Kimo Chun KS’92, a strategy consultant with KS’ Kealaili-kuamo’o.

“Our kaiāulu is diverse and we cannot ignore the needs of our lāhui. These men brought that reality home to me in a very authentic and emotional way,” Chun continued. “It reminds me of the initial intent for early college to support marginalized communities and college access.”

Through these partnerships, KS Kaiāulu and its collaborators understand that our keiki are the leaders of tomorrow. The collective aim is to provide ‘ōpio with college and career advancement that prepares the next generation of leaders to uplift lāhui, grounded in kuleana.

“Every haumāna has potential and something to contribute to the growth of our lāhui,” Kanaka’ole said. “And with the right support, they will.”



The audience was inspired by formerly incarcerated speakers sharing their experiences taking college courses behind bars.

► Resources + Impacts

# COMMUNITY INVESTING



Spent serving 43,759 learners

through various community organizations, community engagements, internships, college and career counseling, leadership and other programming.



# 2025 in Review

From mālama 'āina in Ku'ia, Lahaina to 'Aha Makahiki celebrations on our campuses, the past fiscal year reflected the enduring connections between culture, community and education at Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha. Haumāna, kumu, donors and partners alike advanced pathways for learning, stewardship and 'ike Hawai'i. These meaningful moments capture a year grounded in purpose and shared kuleana.



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- 1 Kamehameha Schools preschoolers on Maui joined community members for a mālama 'āina day on 'Āina Pauahi in Ka Malu, Ku'ia, contributing to KS' shared vision for Lahaina's restoration.
- 2 Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i held its annual 'Aha Makahiki to celebrate Makahiki, the Hawaiian season of peace, renewal and gratitude ushered in by the rising of Makali'i.
- 3 A group of Kamehameha Schools Maui kumu experienced ea on Kaho'olawe during a professional development trip that challenged the staffers to deepen their understanding of 'ike Hawai'i while planting native flora and engaging in cultural activities.
- 4 Haumāna from Kamehameha Schools Preschools-He'eia wore pink to "Walk for Pauahi" and helped to raise more than \$1,000 in "Pennies for Pauahi," which became a Mānowai Scholarship for a post-secondary student's educational journey.
- 5 Kumu Lāiana Wong prepares 'awa as haumāna and alumni from Kamehameha Schools Kapālama participate in ceremonial protocols at Marae Taputapuātea during Hōkūle'a's Moananuiākea Voyage.
- 6 At the Pauahi Foundation's Ko'olua Reception, donors have the opportunity to meet the recipients of their scholarships and see the impact of their generosity.
- 7 Kamehameha Schools, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and three leaders from Ra'iātea, French Polynesia signed a Cultural Heritage, Education and Community Exchange Agreement meant to deepen ties across Moananuiākea.
- 8 As part of a collaboration with Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i, haumāna from the Kapālama campus conducted DNA testing on fish at Mālama Loko Ea to help determine the ratio of native to invasive mullet.



# E holomua pū kākou!

## Let us move forward together!



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**Ke Kula 'o Kamehameha**